

REMARKS

The examiner considers this application to contain two inventions or groups of inventions, which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, and requires restriction to either Group I (claims 1-21 and 28-30) or Group II (claims 22-25).

Applicant elects Group I, comprising claims 1-21 and 28-30 and drawn to a method for attenuating the virulence of a microbial pathogen and a method for inhibiting microbial colonization and biofilm formation, with traverse. Traversal is based on the fact that the composition containing c-di-GMP at page 5472, right column of Mayer et al., under "Materials and Methods" is merely a composition used in purifying cellulose synthase from bacterial cell and membrane components ruptured by a French press. Such a composition is not a pharmaceutical composition and could not be used as a pharmaceutical composition because it is neither sterile nor sufficiently purified from other contaminating bacterial components.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

Appln. No. 10/565,591
Response dated January 14, 2008
Reply to Office action of December 13, 2007

Favorable consideration and early allowance are
hereby respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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